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saints in the unity of the Spirit, that in the consciousness of Thine acceptance they may experience the power of Thy support, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

L. N. H.

RED CROSS NURSING AND CENTRAL DIRECTORIES

DEAR EDITOR: In your editorial in the March number on the subject of Red Cross Nursing and Central Directories, the statement is made that "Developments seem to show that Red Cross nursing service and central registries governed by nurses for nurses are inseparable."

The fact that so few central registries are in existence in the United States would seem to indicate that nurses themselves are not all of the same opinion as to the desirability of having them established. Therefore, it seems to me to be ill-advised "during this difficult period of organization" to handicap the work of building up an effective nursing service for the Red Cross by making it in any way dependent on the promotion of the central registry idea.

BEATRICE STEVENSON.

INFORMATION NEEDED

DEAR EDITOR: I am wanting information regarding a course of instruction in orthopædic nursing for graduate nurses. I should prefer a western hospital.

I thoroughly enjoy my AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, it is of assistance in many instances. Dr. Potter has my sincere thanks for her article in the March number.

A. C. B.

[Replies may be addressed to A. C. B. care the editorial office of the JOURNAL.]

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF JOURNAL ARTICLES

DEAR EDITOR: The article on lunches some months ago was very pleasing to me, as since my marriage I have had to put up lunches for my husband. He sits all day and is under great mental strain, and it was a problem with which I felt unequal to cope, to make his luncheons dainty, nourishing, and easily digested, and still have variety.

Now comes this month's magazine with the article on "The Hygiene of Menstruation." People have accused me of wilfully abusing my health at that time because I would bathe and change clothing. It is astonishing how deep-seated that belief is, even among well-educated people; also that too much bathing is not good for the parturient woman.

Miss McIsaac's articles on "Household Hygiene" helped me convince my husband that we didn't want a great mass of decorated furniture and bric-a-brac and lace curtains to accumulate and hold dust, and that polished floors with rugs were cleaner than carpets.

Wishing you much success this coming year in every way.

J. M. H.

FORCED FEEDING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

DEAR EDITOR: I am a subscriber to the JOURNAL, and am interested in the article of the March number on the feeding of political prisoners in England. I am an English nurse and would like to say I am not in sympathy with the prisoners when it becomes a matter of life or death.

What is the government to do? Because women refuse to eat and are acting insanely, is it to let the prisoner die? and so cause greater "scandal."

The object in itself may be well worth suffering for, but cannot be very heroic in causing notoriety. It seems like a naughty spoiled child.

I believe in woman's rights to a certain extent, for we all know in some cases women can work better than men, but I do not and cannot believe that those rights are even desirable if they cause women to lose their dignity and womanhood in refusing food and being brought into such prominence. There can be nothing "craven" in ordering persons to be fed when they are not in a condition mentally to decide for themselves, and I am astonished that a nurse, especially, should try to live without eating, particularly to accomplish the object she has in view.

I am ashamed for some of my own countrywomen in raising such commotion,—as much as we may want the suffrage, they certainly do not assume a very lady-like manner in resisting so actively.

Are we surprised when men lose respect for us and our ideas, when we compel them to do so by first losing our own dignity?

If the country were governed by women, we should want to go back to some of the men, and surely women who are so highly strung and capable of bringing such notoriety must be much more unfit, both mentally and physically, to direct and control public affairs than a cool-headed man.

J. B.

One of the crying needs of the day is suitable provision for the inebriate. For many years the fact has been impressed upon me that the abuse of alcohol is one of the most prominent factors in the causation of insanity, and this view is now quite generally accepted by alienists the world over.

In a study which was made last year of 961 cases of insanity admitted to the Manhattan State Hospital in which a fairly reliable history could be obtained, we found that of all the causes, alcohol, either alone or combined, stood out most prominently. Of 358 men whose insanity was said to be due to physical causes, 145, or over 40 per cent., were due to alcohol alone, while 231, or over 64 per cent., were due to alcohol and other physical causes.

Among the 336 women in whom the exciting cause was physical, 25 per cent. were due to alcohol alone and 33 per cent. were due to alcohol and other physical agents.—Dr. Wm. Mabon in *The Survey*.

Homer Folks, of New York City, recently made the statement before the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis that there are at the present time in the United States 75,000 cases of tuberculosis in advanced stages of the disease, and that every one of these cases ought to be isolated in hospitals, but that there are only 5000 beds in the entire country for these 75,000 cases.—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY AND PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.